

Special Demonstration Projects for Assessment/Improvement of Data Quality

Introduction

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of supplemental fiscal year (FY) 1997 funds to support special projects on Data Quality.

The National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) Program Announcement specifies that participating central cancer registries must comply with standards for data quality including standardized data format as promulgated by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) and as stated in Standards for Cancer Registries, Volume III, published by NAACCR in 1994. Because many central cancer registries have historically been underfunded, some long-established registry practices may not be conducive to achieving high quality data. With consistent availability of high quality data on every cancer case, data can be used to reliably determine the burden of cancer in the United States and to measure the impact of, and need for, population-based cancer prevention or control strategies.

Approximately \$200,000 is available in FY 1997 to fund approximately 5 demonstration awards. It is expected that the average award will be \$40,000, ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000. Awards are expected to begin on or about September 1997 and will be made for a 12 month budget period within a project period of up to 2 years. Funding estimates vary and are subject to change. Continuation awards within the project period will be made on the basis of satisfactory

progress and the availability of funds. These supplemental funds for the data quality special project are subject to federal matching requirements.

Special Project Objectives

The objective of the special demonstration projects is to design, implement, and evaluate an intervention to improve data quality. The special projects should achieve one of the following:

1. Improved reliability and/or validity of data on a particular topic.
2. Improved capture of information, from hospital, non-hospital, or other data sources, on a data item required or recommended by NPCR, as authorized under Public Law 102-515, for funded registries.
3. Improved procedures for central cancer registry data quality. For example, applicants might develop and test enhanced or alternative methods for:
 - A. reabstracting studies,
 - B. re-coding audits,
 - C. visual review of text and codes,
 - D. case consolidation,
 - E. providing feedback and/or training to reporting facilities regarding data quality,
 - F. other statistical process control activities,
 - G. or for other procedures.
4. Demonstrate how to increase the use of CDC EDITS for data abstraction and field editing in hospital based cancer registries.

5. Improvement in other issues related to data quality as identified by the applicant.

Application Guidelines for Special Projects

Applications for special project funds should include:

1. Resources and Needs Assessment - A description of a problem or issue that presents a substantial challenge to data quality including a description of the magnitude of the problem of data quality, the methods used to identify the issue, and an overview of the applicant's current and/or past activities related to the data quality problem or issue.
2. Proposed Project
 - A. A description of the proposed special project, including goals, process and outcome objectives, hypotheses, methods to be used, and proposed collaboration (and/or letters of support, if applicable);
 - B. Objectives that are specific, measurable, time-phased, realistic, and directly address the needs identified in the resources and needs assessment.
3. Proposed Implementation Schedule - The applicant must describe the major steps required for project implementation; the extent to which the implementation steps address the project goals and objectives; a projected timetable for program implementation and evaluation that displays dates for the accomplishment of specific proposed activities; and the extent to which the timetable is realistic.
4. Project Management and Staffing Plan - A proposed staffing plan, organizational and management structure,

staff experience and background, job descriptions and resumes with qualifying experience of key personnel indicating ability to carry out the purposes of the project.

5. Separate Itemized Budgets - An itemized budget accompanied by detailed justification that is consistent with the special project objectives. Separate budgets must be submitted for the:
 - A. data quality special project, and
 - B. data quality special project matching funds.

Please note that the data quality special budgets are separate from the continuation application budget and the continuation application matching funds budget.

The narrative portion of the application for special project funds should not exceed **6 pages**. Additional pages may be added as appendices for the data quality project budget, the matching funds budget, job descriptions, resumes, and letters of support, if applicable.

Evaluation Criteria (Total 100 Points)

Applications for special project funds will be reviewed and evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Resources and Needs Assessment (Total 20 points)
 - A. The extent to which the applicant documents a problem or issue including a description of the magnitude of the problem of data quality, the

methods used to identify the issue, and an overview of the applicant's current and/or past activities related to the data quality problem/issue (10 points);

- B. The extent to which the problem or issue presents a substantial challenge to data quality (10 points);

2. Proposed Project (Total 30 points)

- A. The extent to which the proposed special project is described, including goals, process and outcome objectives, hypotheses, methods to be used, and proposed collaboration (and/or letters of support, if applicable) (10 points);

- B. The extent to which objectives are specific, measurable, time-phased, and realistic (10 points);

- C. The extent to which special project objectives directly address the needs identified in the resources and needs assessment (10 points);

3. Proposed Implementation Schedule (Total 30 points)

- A. The extent to which the applicant documents the major steps required for project implementation (10 points);

- B. The extent to which the implementation steps address the project goals and objectives (10 points);

- C. A projected timetable for program implementation and evaluation that displays dates for the accomplishment of specific proposed activities and

the extent to which the timetable is realistic (10 points);

4. Project Management and Staffing Plan (Total 20 points)
 - The extent to which proposed staffing, management and organizational structure, staff experience and background, job descriptions and resumes with qualifying experience of key personnel indicate ability to carry out the purposes of the project;

5. Separate Itemized Budgets (not scored) An itemized budget accompanied by detailed justification that is consistent with the special project objectives. Separate budgets must be submitted for the:
 - A. data quality special project, and
 - B. data quality special project matching funds.

Please note that the data quality special budgets are separate from the continuation application budget and the continuation application matching funds budget.

There will be NO penalty for NOT applying for special project funds.